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HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1939.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

Mr. Chairman and Councillors,

In presenting my annual report for the year 1939 I have complied with the instructions laid down in Circular 2067 of the Ministry of Health dated 19th July, 1940.

This has been the first full year of the new district and I have only compared the vital statistics of the area with those of the composite area for 1938 and disregarded the preceding years.

There have been no changes in the general provisions of health services for the area. The legislation in force in the area has remained the same.

There have been no marked changes or developments in the sanitary circumstances of the area during the year. For details see Sanitary Inspectors' reports. The water supply owing to the use of Holme Styes Reservoir was satisfactory in quantity for the first time for some years. As regards quality the other reservoirs are not always free from contamination as is only natural with small open reservoirs receiving a certain amount of surface water. It would be for the public good if all the water from these reservoirs could be purified before going into the mains.

The Council received the Ministry of Health's sanction to pay £5 or half the cost of conversion (whichever is the least) to all owners who convert privy middens or tub closets to the water carriage system. This to date back to the date of the amalgamation. Unfortunately this sanction was suspended by the Ministry of Health in October, 1939 until after the war.

Much of the work of the public health officials has been diverted during the year to Air Raid Precautions, organising Casualty Services, Decontamination Services, and preparing for the reception of evacuees. As most of these schemes were changed many times the nett result of their efforts at the end of 1939 was not commensurate with the work and time put into them.

Very little action was taken with regard to housing in 1939, though the Council completed the erection of fifty-two houses at Scar End, Brockholes and twenty-five at Holmfirth, sixteen of these being at Fieldhouse, three at Cliffe, and six at Netherthong.

APPENDIX I.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area..	17,565 acres.
Population (estimated mid.1939)..	18,840
Number of inhabited houses 1938..	5,987
Rateable Value.	£87,188
Sum represented by a Penny Rate..	£334

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS.	Total.	M.	F.	Birth rate per 1,000 pop'n.
Holmfirth	209	106	103	11.09
	207	105	102	legitimate
	2	1	1	illegitimate

STILL BIRTHS				Rate per 1,000 total births (live & still).
Holmfirth	11	8	3	50

DEATHS.				Crude death rate per 1,000. population.	Adjusted death rate
Holmfirth	259	112	147	13.70	13.97

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 births.
Deaths from Puerperal Causes.	0	0
From Puerperal Sepsis.	0	0
From other Pu erperal causes.	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under one year.

	Total.	Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births.	Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births.
Holmfirth..	43.06	43.47	nil

HOLMFIRTH (composite figures for whole year).

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	1
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	33

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLMFIRTH U.D.C.,

I herewith furnish statement of Sanitary Work done, coming under my notice and supervision during 1939.

Dairies and Cowsheds Regulations.

Number of inspections made during 1939.....655
" " cowsheds registered..... 78

Nuisances.

Number of inspections during 1939.....732
" reported during 1939.....170
" in hand at close of 1938..... 2
" needing abatement.....172
" abated during 1939.....172
" outstanding at the end of 1939.....nil
" of notices served informal..... 27
" of notices complied with - informal..... 27
" of notices served statutory.....143
" of notices complied with statutory.....143

Sewerage and Drainage.

Development during 1939.

Number of lineal yards of 6 inch sewer laid..... 25

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Pail Closets in district at the close of 1939.... 56
" " Privies with covered middens " " " 894
" " " converted into Pail closets..... 0
" " additional Pail Closets..... 0
" " Pail Closets converted into Water Closets..... 6
" " Privies converted into Water Closets..... 53
" " additional Water Closets provided to old property 6
" " " " " " new " 53
" " Water Closets in district at end of 1938..... 1869

Scavenging.

This work is carried out by the Council's workmen under my supervision and I trust to your satisfaction.

The approximate weight of refuse disposed of is as follows:-

To tips.....2932 tons.
To farmers.....1022 tons.

I am, Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

SAM BRAY

Sanitary Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOLMFIRTH U.D.C.

I beg to place before you my Annual Report in which is given a brief review of the work of my department and the sanitary conditions in the Honley and New Mill Areas of your District.

Summary of Inspections.

Dwelling Houses	104
Inspection for Nuisances	639
Farm and Cowsheds	343
Meat and other Foods	342
Slaughter Houses	312
Workshops	18
Bakehouses	26
Factories	41
Smoke Observations	4
Houses or schools disinfected	35
Informal notices served	138
" " complied with	131
Statutory notices	nil

Scavenging.

14 ashpits have been closed and replaced by 50 dustbins. The refuse being disposed of by means of destructors and tipping and carried out by the Council's two motor wagons.

Sanitary Conveniences.

The conversion of closets to the water carriage system during the year has been very satisfactory and is as follows:- Tub-closets 8, Privy Middens 32 and 77 W.Cs. have been installed in new houses. The suspension of the grant towards the cost of conversions has naturally stopped this work but I am confident that rapid progress will result when the grant is again available.

Smoke Observations.

A number of observations have been made and with one exception were found to be satisfactory. The case referred to has since carried out certain work which may obviate the nuisance complained of.

Cows and Cowsheds.

The general cleanliness of the cows and cowsheds were good and there has been one addition to the list of Accredited dealers in the Honley Area.

There have been strict inspections made of all meat killed in the districts and diseased meat and offals found unfit for food were surrendered and destroyed. The total weight of meat destroyed was 492 lbs.

In conclusion, I should like to extend my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health and Housing Committee and all Officials of the Council for their valuable assistance in all matters which may improve the sanitary conditions in the district.

I am, Mr.Chairman and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

IRVIN HAIGH
Sanitary Inspector.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

There was a wide spread Influenza epidemic during the first few months of the year. Whooping cough was also prevalent during Spring. An order came into force on the 23rd October, 1939 making cases of Whooping Cough and Measles compulsorarily notifiable throughout the country under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations 1939.

Notifiable Infectious Disease.

Ninety cases of Notifiable Infectious Disease were notified to me during 1939 compared with fifty-eight in 1938. These were comprised as follows:-

Scarlet Fever 35; Pneumonia 21; Diphtheria 15; Erysipelas 15; Puerperal Pyrexia2; Whooping Cough (after October 23rd) 2.

Scarlet Fever.

Thirty-five cases of Scarlet Fever were notified during the year. These were distributed evenly throughout the year, four cases occurred in one family and two cases each in two other families; twenty-three cases were in school children. All were isolated in hospital and there were no deaths.

Diphtheria.

Although twenty-two cases of sore throat were notified to me as diphtheria and removed to hospital, only fifteen of these proved to be true Diphtheria on bacteriological examination. Two of these cases, a child of nine and a child of two and a half died. These three children had not been immunised against diphtheria. Of the fifteen cases, five were in adults and two in children under school age. Of the eight school children four attended the Scholes Council School and four the Hepworth C. E. School. Only one of these cases that contracted diphtheria had been immunised. During the year I immunised one hundred and seventy-one children against diphtheria; 108 of these being from the Scholes, Hepworth and New Mill Schools, 14 were from Honley Schools, two from the Holme Council School and 47 from schools in the area of the old Holmfirth district.

Pneumonia.

Twenty-one cases of Primary Pneumonia were notified during the year, amongst which there were only three deaths. In the previous year there were 9 deaths out of 27 cases, and whether the marked improvement in the death rate from pneumonia was due to the efficacy of the new sulphonamide group of drugs remains to be seen, but the results so far are very promising.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Two cases of Puerperal Pyrexia were notified during the year; both mild cases. One was treated at the Holme Valley Memorial Hospital and the other was isolated at the Infectious Diseases Hospital, Meltham.

Opthalmic Neonatorum.

No case of Opthalmic Neonatorum occurred during the year.

Tuberculosis.

7 fresh cases of pulmonary and 12 cases of non-pulmonary Tuberculosis have been notified during the year. There have been 7 deaths from this disease; 5 from Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 from Non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases during the Year, 1939.

DISEASE.	Total cases notified.	Under 1 year.	1 to 2 years.	2 to 3 years.	3 to 4 years.	4 to 5 years	5 to 10 years.	10 to 15 years.	15 to 20 years.	20 to 35 years.	35 to 45 years.	45 to 65 years.	Over 65 years.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever.	35	0	0	4	6	2	17	3	2	0	1	0	0	35	0
Diphtheria.	15	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	3	2	0	0	0	15	2
Pneumonia.	21	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	1	3	8	5	0	3
Erysipelas.	15	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	9	2	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia.	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0
Whooping Cough.	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS.....	90	0	0	5	6	4	24	10	6	6	5	17	7	52	5

Hospital for the Treatment of Infectious Diseases

The Colne and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital at Meltham.

HOLMFIRTH URBAN DISTRICT.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1 to 5 years.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5 to 10 years.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
10 to 15 years.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
15 to 20 years.	..	2	1	3	..	3	..	..
20 to 25 years.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
25 to 35 years.	2	1	..	3	..	..	..	1
35 to 45 years.	..	..	2	..	...	..	..	..
45 to 55 years.	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
55 to 65 years.	..	..	1	1	..	1	..	..
Over 65 years.	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1
TOTALS....	3	4	4	8	1	4	0	2

APPENDIX II.

Statistics provided by the Registrar General.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	No. of births.	Birth rate per 1,000.	No. of Deaths.	Crude Death Rate per 1,000.	Deaths under 1 year.	Rate per 1,000 births.
1938	235	12.45	264	13.99	13	55.31
1939	209	11.09	259	13.70	9	43.06

Births.

Two hundred and nine births have been registered during the year, of which 106 were males and 103 females. Two of these births were illegitimate, one male and one female. The birth rate is 11.09 per 1,000 persons compared with a birth rate of 15 for the whole of England and Wales. There were 11 still births, of which 8 were males and 10 females, registered during the year. All legitimate. This gives a still birth rate per 1,000 persons of 0.58 compared with a still birth rate of 0.59 for England and Wales.

Infant Mortality.

There were nine deaths amongst infants under 1 year of age, of which 7 were males and 2 females. All of these were legitimate. The causes of death were: Prematurity or congenital causes or difficult labour 4 cases, bronchial pneumonia 2, scalds, whooping cough and eczema 1 each. The infant mortality rate is 43.06 compared with an infant mortality rate of 50 for England and Wales.

Deaths.

During the year 254 deaths were registered in the district. Thirty-four of these deaths were of persons belonging to other districts and were transferred out of the district for burial. Thirty-nine deaths also occurred amongst persons outside the district belonging to the district and these were transferred back into the district for burial. This gives a nett total of 259 deaths for the district. One hundred and twelve of these were male and 147 females. The crude death rate is 13.70 per 1,000 persons, the adjusted death rate is 13.97 compared with a death rate of 12.1 for England and Wales.

Places of Death. Fifty-eight of the nett total of 259 deaths occurred in Public Institutions.

Ages of Death. Of the nett total of 259 deaths, 4 were of persons over the age of 90 years; 137 were of persons over the age of 65 years; and 81 in persons aged between 45 and 65 years.

Causes of Death. The chief causes of death were:- Heart disease 91, other circulatory diseases 16, cancer 33, cereb ral haemorrhage 19, nephritis and violence 11 each, influenza 9, tuberculosis 7.

Maternal Mortality.

There were again no deaths from puerperal causes during the year. This gives a maternal mortality rate of 0 per 1,000 total (live and still) births, compared with a maternal mortality rate of 2.82 for England and Wales.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN 1939.

The Registrar General's list of causes of death is as stated below:

Causes of Death.	M.	F.
Typhoid Fever	0	0
Measles	0	0
Scarlet Fever	0	0
Whooping Cough	1	0
Diphtheria	2	0
Influenza	5	4
Encephalitis Lethargica	0	0
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	0	0
Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	4
Other Tuberculosis	0	2
Syphillis	0	0
Gen.Paralysis of Insane, etc.	0	0
Cancer	12	21
Diabetes	1	5
Cerebral Haemorrhage	10	9
Heart Disease	29	62
Aneurysm	0	0
Other Circulatory	10	6
Bronchitis	2	4
Pneumonia	2	1
Other Respiratory	4	1
Peptic Ulcer	0	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	1	0
Appendicitis	0	2
Cirrhosis of Liver	1	0
Other Liver Diseases	0	0
Other Digestive	0	2
Nephritis	5	6
Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
Other Puerperal	0	0
Congenital Causes, etc.	2	2
Senility	2	3
Suicide	3	0
Other Violence	9	2
Other Defined Causes	10	10
Ill-defined Causes	0	0
All Causes	112	147

I have the honour to be,

Mr.Chairman and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

T. S. DAVY, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF THE WEST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE.

TABLE C. ..... Holmfirth ..... Sanitary District. YEAR 1939.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS.

Total No. of Inspections made in 1939 for Nuisances only 1371 ..... (Not including Housing Inspections)

Nuisances found in 1939 ...308.....) Total needing abatement .....320....

Nuisances in hand, end of 1938 .12...) Abated during 1939 .....313....

Outstanding end of 1939 7

Notices served, Informal ...165..... Complied with ..168.....

" " Statutory ..143..... " " ..143....

Total number of Summonses or other legal proceedings .....Nil.....

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.	No. in District	No. on Register	Total No. of Inspections made.	General Conditions.	Legal Proceedings (if any)	Have the Council declared any other processes to be offensive trades?
Common Lodging Houses	Nil					
Houses Let in Lodgings	Nil					
Canal Boats	Nil					
Knackers' Yards	1	1	4	Good	Nil	
Tents, Vans and Sheds	1					
Offensive Trades (Please specify kind)	3	3	9	Tallow chandler. Good	Nil	No

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Particulars of any sewer extensions during 1939 25 yds. 6" earthenware sewer laid at Bank End, Underbank.

Details of any portion of district still requiring:-

(a) Sewering outlying portions of district.. (b) Improvement of defective sewers ..Nil.....

No. of houses not connected to sewers ..482 approx.....

Sewage Disposal Works.

Particulars of any extensions made during 1939 Nil.....

Any inadequacy of sewage disposal works? ....No.....

Any complaint from West Riding Rivers Board?..No.....

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

No. of Privies with open middens .Nil..... No. of Pail or Tub Closets ..218.....

" " with covered middens ..1337..... No. of water closets ..3852..... Waste-water closets ..21.....

" " reconstructed during 1939 - (a) as w.c's ..85..... (b) Other ...Nil.....

" Closets, other than Privies, reconstructed during 1939 as w.c's ...14 tubs.....

" additional Closets provided for old property in 1939 as (a) w.c's ....8..... (b) Other Nil.....

" Closets constructed in 1939 for new houses (a) w.c's .....130..... (b) Other Nil.....

Any special action being taken by Council to secure conversion of privies, waste-water closets and pails to w.c. system.

If so, what? The local authority with ministry sanction have paid £5 or half cost of conversion (whichever is the less) towards all conversions of privies or tub closets since the amalgamation. This was suspended in Oct 1939 until after the war

SCAVENGING.

Is public scavenging in operation throughout the whole district? yes.....

If not, is it in operation in any part of the area? If so, please specify part or parts .....

How is refuse disposed of?

1. Destruction 45%
2. Tipping 50%
3. Farmers 5%

If tipping is in operation, is it on the controlled system? .....Partly.....

Total annual cost of collection and disposal of refuse £3207.

Particulars of any extension or improvement in the service during the year ..Nil.....

WATER SUPPLY.

Source of supply No fresh sources since last year.... By whom distributed .L.A.....

No. of dwelling houses on public supply .5143. Any extension of supply during the year? ..No.....

Has supply been satisfactory? .yes..... (a) In quality on the whole yes (b) In quantity .yes.....

No. of examinations made during the year (a) chemical ..1.... Result Satisfactory. (b) bacteriological. 13..Result Satisfactory 4 Unsatisfactory 7

Have any supplies been restricted or closed, if so, where? No.....

MILK SUPPLY.

No. of Milk samples taken by officers of local authority for analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938 ..Nil.....

No. found adulterated ..—..... No. of Prosecutions ..—.....

No. of samples of ordinary milk taken by officers of local authority for:- (a) Methylene blue test ....—.....

(b) Presence of tuberculosis ....—.....

Any special examination of milk for dirt, e.g., sedimentation test? 3.....

Any instance of disease attributed to milk during 1939 ...No.....

No. of cowkeepers in district 235 No. registered 137. Total No. of cowsheds .447.. Total No. of milk cows 1277 approx

Total No. of cowsheds inspected during the year .333 Total No. of cowshed inspections 998..

No. of wholesale traders registered ..... No. of retail milk sellers registered ..... Have any retailers been removed from the register? .5....

Observations as to structural conditions, cleanliness and methods of production and handling of milk good work in hand in number of cowsheds.....

MILK SUPPLY (Cont'd).

Milk (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938.

	No. Licences in force in area for:-	Samples of designated milks examined bacteriologically:- No. satisfactory.	No. unsatisfactory.	Total.
(a) Production of "Tuberculin Tested" Milk	1			
(b) " " "Accredited" Milk	13	17	4	21
(c) In respect of Pasteurising plants				

(d) No. of Licences in force for bottling "Tuberculin Tested" or "Accredited" milk, other than at place of production ...nil....

MEAT INSPECTION.

Any public abattoir in district? ...no...

Total No. of private slaughterhouses ..18.... made up of ...5.... registered and ....13..... licensed.

No. unsatisfactory either as regards structure, position or in other respects ..1...

No. of times each slaughterhouse inspected ..107..... Total inspections ..937...

No. of seizures of unsound food ...8... Total weight ..867..... No. of Prosecutions ..nil...

PUBLIC HEALTH (MEAT) REGULATIONS, 1924.

Meat Marking: Is scheme in force under above? ..no.....If so, give particulars of action under same .....

OTHER FOODS.

No. of samples (other than milk) taken by officers of L.A. for examination under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, and Food and Drugs Act, 1938.....nil

No. found adulterated nil. No. of Prosecutions ..nil.....

No. of Bakehouses in district ..16.. Total inspections..93

Are any of bakehouses underground, if so, how many? no.....

SCHOOLS. Statutory Medical Inspection is carried out by the County Education Authority in most of the Districts, but that does not relieve the M.O.H. of his duties in regard to sanitation and the prevention of infectious outbreaks in connection with Schools.

No. of Schools in District 16.. No. visited by M.O.H. ..15....

Action taken ..nil.....

Schools closed by M.O.H. nil.....

General Sanitary Conditions .....Good.....

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No. of smoke observations each of 30 minutes duration taken during 1939 .....27.....

No. of above showing excessive emission of black smoke..5..

No. of cautions issued ..5.....

No. of statutory notices issued ...nil.

No. of prosecutions ..nil.....

SHOPS ACT, 1934, Sections 10 and 13 (3).

No. of visits paid under the above Act during 1939 ..73.....

Unsatisfactory conditions found ..3... Remedied 3.....

TENTS, VANS, SHEDS, etc. No. in District ..1.....

Is this class of dwelling showing signs of increase? ..no..

Have Council made byelaws under Section 268(4), Public Health Act, 1936? .....no.....

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

Are there in the district:-

Any public swimming baths or pools?.....no Any privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public?..2.....

If so, give brief particulars of each and state what action is taken to ensure satisfactory condition of the water.

Water is chlorinated & filtrated at both establishments. One now uses Council supply which previously used unsatisfactory private supply

Any samples of bath waters examined in 1939, apart from samples submitted to the County Bacteriological Laboratory?

If so, please give particulars 8 - ...7 satisfactory.....1..unsatisfactory.....

BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS in force in District.

Please give list of Byelaws and Regulations in force and date of adoption in each case .....

...no change from 1938.....

INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diseases specially prevalent in 1939 .....

..... State months .....

Any diseases specially added to notifiable list? .....

Any influences threatening the health of the District?

.....

MORTUARIES. What accommodation -

(a) for accidents ..1.....

(b) for infectious cases other than at hospital nil.....

(c) for other cases ..as above.....

(d) for post mortem examinations ...2.....

Any suggestions by M.O.H. ...no.....

SANITARY STAFF.

What is the present Annual Salary of the M.O.H? £.255...

Name of Sanitary Inspector.	Annual salary as Sanitary Inspector.	Other appointments held.	Salary for such other appointments.
Sam Bray	£.260		£. nil
Irwin Haigh	£.260		

Any Assistants? ..no....Is Staff sufficient? ..yes.....

Does M.O.H. receive copies of Memos. and Circulars distributed by Ministry of Health? ....yes.....

SPECIAL REPORTS AND INVESTIGATIONS ON ANY SUBJECTS (Please attach copy).

.....

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SUPPLEMENTARY REMARKS as to Sanitary requirements of District, suggestions of M.O.H., and extended notes on any of the foregoing entries. Any suggestions as to need for County Clinics or Dispensaries, or as to existing Clinics or Dispensaries.

C.M.O.'s Department, County Hall,
Wakefield.